DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 403 096 RC 020 878

AUTHOR Kawagley, A. Oscar
TITLE A Yupiaq Worldview: A Pathway to Ecology and Spirit.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-88133-859-1
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 174p.
AVAILABLE FROM Waveland Press, Inc., P.O. Box 400, Prospect Heights, IL 60070 ($10.50 plus $4 shipping).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Alaska Natives; *American Indian Education; Cultural Context; *Culturally Relevant Education; *Educational Principles; Elementary Secondary Education; Epistemology; Eskimos; Nonformal Education; *Science Education
IDENTIFIERS Human Ecology; *World Views; *Yupik Eskimos

ABSTRACT

Written from a Yupiaq perspective, this book examines and compares Yupiaq and Western worldviews and their relationship to the learning and use of scientific knowledge. Chapter 1 discusses shared characteristics of the worldviews of Alaska Natives and then focuses specifically on the Yupiaq worldview, which is based on maintaining a balance among the human, natural, and spiritual worlds, and incorporates belief in the equality of all creatures, learning through participant observation, emphasis on sharing and cooperation, respect for the wisdom of elders, and intimate knowledge of the local landscape. Chapter 2 provides a brief history of the Yupiit Nation and its school system and describes the research site--the village of Akiak on the Kuskokwim River in southwestern Alaska. Chapter 3 examines Yupiaq use of science, mathematics, and technology for survival, focusing on weather prediction, fishing, fish preparation and preservation, diet and nutrition, traditional medicines and admonitions, healing and mental health, and integration of modern technology. Chapter 4 describes educational practices and science instruction in Akiak's K-12 school. Chapter 5 discusses Yupiaq cultural adaptation in the contemporary world, the cultural "price" of introduction of outside technologies, the implications of Yupiaq ethnoscience for village schooling, and the need to integrate schooling and Yupiaq ways of knowing. Goals are proposed for culturally integrated schooling, and a science curriculum is outlined based on the Yupiaq fish camp experience. An appendix describes the research setting and methodology and the researcher's background and biases. Contains 115 references, photographs, and a Yup'ik glossary. (SV)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

THIS
DOCUMENT
NOT
AVAILABLE
FROM

EDRS